

No big news. Tyringham has completed the Readiness Assessment Form that the MBI requires. This town information helps the state determine if Tyringham is in a position to move forward with a fiber system that will be financially sustainable, and technically feasible. Our next steps will be on soliciting proposals from builder/managers of our system. It would be great to have that response by the end of 2016. Our Selectman Jim Consolati – point person for the fiber effort -- is working hard with the MBI which is provided strong and organized support.

We know, of course, that Mid-Hudson is interested, and we know it is important to have some competition to keep prices down. We hope to hear from two other cable companies (who would install a fiber system, not traditional cable); Frontier, a very large company based in Connecticut, and Charter, the former Time-Warner. We do not want to pay for our own system, and these companies can pay for it and own the system.

Wired West is no long functioning. Most towns have moved on since Wired West essentially closed down. One of the founders took another job and has now moved back to Canada. The co-founder is working on his own with the MBI to try to help towns to the east of us that do not have the money or ability to attract a solid builder. Lanesboro and two other towns that have some cable already, are getting money to have their cable system built out to the entire town, as reported in the Eagle some days ago. This funding is separate from the fiber plan that we are pursuing.

It has never been possible to know when we would have fiber up and running, and delays have come from the limits of the Wired West plan and the MBIs need to reject their business plan,, and also, which is good, from the Governor's efforts to reorganize MBI management to ensure towns have solid futures with high-speed internet.

Even when contracts are signed and we have our builder, things like weather, the decisions of the companies that own the poles can slow things down. It will certainly be over a year before we see little glimmers at the end of the tunnel. Hang in there and thanks so much for your support.